has stopped direct sailing to East Coast Ports of USA from Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also fact that total shipments on the route show an upward trend by about 10 per cent over the last year;

(d) if so, whether Government pro. pose to revive the position; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI "JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Shipping Corporation of India has not stopped direct sailings from Calcutta to East Coast Ports of USA.

(c) No, Sir. In fact that total ship ments from Calcutta/Haldia to East Coast of USA in 1992 were 1,04,868 tonnes as compa_ red to 1,05,104 tonnes in 1991, showing a marginal decline of 0.22 per cent.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Improving the Financial Conditons of Hindustan Shipyard Limited

357. SHRI P. UPENDRA; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Ship yard Limited has been in the "Red" for a long time;

(b) whether severalrepresentations have been made to Government for improving the viability of the Shipyard; and

(c) what steps Government are taking *to* brighten the prospects of this public sector undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Some representations were re ceived for improving the viability of *the* Shipyard.

(c) The following steps have been taken to revive the HSL:—

(i) Permission to sell the 3 bulk carriers under construction in HSL for Shipping Corporation of India by open tender.

(ii) Reduction in man-power by extending financial asistance for implementing the Voluntray Retirement Scheme.

The following further steps are under consideration:—

(i) Capital re.structuring of HSL involving conversion of project dev- elopment loans into equity, waiver of interest/penal interest etc.

(ii) A package of reliefs for shipbuilding industry including revision of the pricing formula and also extension of Yard credit on soft terms to the Shipping Com-paies placing orders on the Indian Yards.

Buses Under S.T.A. and DTC in DelM

358. SHRI SHANTC TYAGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public transport bus (DTC private buses under STA and DTC operation) in the Capital today;

(b) whether the Delhi Administration is planning to flood the Capitals roads with a large contingent of buses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 6937 buses.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.